

appropriations. I am taking the liberty of using some of the figures from my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE), which were also presented today on the floor in terms of explaining the bill that we voted on this afternoon.

We are facing a fiscal crisis in this country. This administration and this Congress, led by Speaker PELOSI, are spending this country into a terrible, terrible situation. We are mortgaging our children and grandchildren's future with excess spending; and it has to stop somewhere.

Had this bill merely contained the funding for Israel, it would have been very easy for me to have supported it, although I was quite concerned that the bill reduced the funding for Israel by 7.2 percent below last year's funding level and 23.3 percent below the request. But, as I said earlier, the total bill had an increase of 33.8 percent compared to last year. What kind of message does it send when we increase overall spending levels in this bill by a third and yet cut funding to a critical ally and democratic partner in the Middle East?

One of the most troubling increases in this bill was a 20 percent increase to the United Nations Population Fund and a 19 percent increase to International Family Planning. The United Nations Population Fund aids China's one-child policy, coercive abortion, and sterilization. International Family Planning goes to organizations that promote and provide abortion services through International Planned Parenthood Federation and Marie Stokes International.

In addition, the Democrats had rejected four cost-cutting Republican amendments that had been presented which could have made this bill a lot more palatable to the 97 Republicans who voted against it.

Another problem with the bill is that there was a false assumption that the Obama administration will live up to its promise of no more war supplementals for Iraq and Afghanistan. The President has gone back on every promise that he made during the campaign. He has already asked for a supplemental this year, says it was a carryover from last year, but that won't happen again. However, before the ink was dry on the amended full committee report of this bill, the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Congressman MURTHA, publicly stated that another supplemental is necessary to fund the troops because of the low fiscal year 2010 Defense allocation.

So the promise was that all of the money for the war was going to be here and we wouldn't have to do more supplementals. That isn't going to happen.

This bill also avoids making hard fiscal choices about spending abroad while we face a financial crisis here. This is not the way we should be going. We should be funding our friends and our allies. We should be helping Israel which is the only true democracy in the Middle East and who stands by us year after year, day after day. But funding things like abortion and international family planning is not the way to go.

## PASSING OF LONGTIME HOUSE STAFFER SALLY CROWE

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2009*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express how deeply saddened I am by the passing of longtime House staffer and Members' Dining Room Hostess, Sally Crowe.

The House of Representatives will mourn her for a long time, particularly the Members, staff and guests she touched on a regular basis. Her absence is truly unsettling.

Sally served the House of Representatives with distinction for over 57 years—over five decades—longer than any Member in Congress today.

A few years ago, she received the John W. McCormack Annual Award of Excellence for her commitment and outstanding service: An honor well deserved.

Sally was first hired as a cashier in the Longworth House Office Building cafeteria in 1951. But she is best known for her service as a hostess in the Members' Dining Room in the Capitol—a post she took on in the 1960s.

Sally's loyalty and work ethic was unmatched. Three years ago, she suffered a bad fall, but still returned to the job she clearly loved. She was 89 years old at that time.

Just as remarkable, Sally seemed to know every Member by name.

I first met her nine years ago, as a freshman Member of Congress. Those of us who were privileged to have met her are all the better for it. Sally was a burst of sunshine and brought joy to everyone who came in her path.

Sadly, on Sunday, June 28—just 10 days ago—Sally bid farewell to the Congress and her family and friends.

I want to extend condolences to her three daughters, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren and say thank you for sharing her with us.

Sally's sense of humor was contagious and her spirit was comforting. We miss her dearly.

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 10, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3082) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 3082, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010. This legislation continues our commitment to the men and women who sacrifice so much to keep our nation safe, supporting members of our military on base, in theater, and when they return home.

As the representative of Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, and many members of our

National Guard and Reserves, I am pleased that this bill invests in the infrastructure needed to prepare our troops for battle and improve military equipment. Fort Bragg is becoming one of the largest military facilities in the country through the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, and this bill will provide more than \$200 million for a variety of projects on the base in support of Army activity, special operations forces, and the National Guard. Nationwide, H.R. 3082 contains significant funding for new facilities including \$450 million to modernize troop housing, \$2 billion to improve military family housing, and \$7.5 billion for BRAC. In recognition of the historic contributions of National Guard and Reserve personnel to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as their support of emergency assistance and homeland security, this bill provides \$200 million for National Guard and Reserve construction. H.R. 3082 also includes \$1.4 billion for needs related to operations and troop increases in Afghanistan. Overall, this bill ensures that our military infrastructure keeps up with the needs of our modern fighting forces and operations overseas.

As an Army veteran, I am also pleased that H.R. 3082 continues to build on our promise to take care of all those who have served our country with honor. It provides nearly \$109 billion for veteran's services, including medical care and facilities. Together with increases of the last two years, enactment of this bill will have increased veteran's funding by nearly 50 percent, in recognition of the service of our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill provides \$34.7 billion to improve access to medical services for all veterans and \$4.6 billion for mental health care, and will add 1,200 new claims processors to reduce the claims backlog and ensure veterans receive care and payment in a timely manner. It also makes significant investments in medical research and information technology. As the representative of a predominantly rural district, I am aware that more than 40 percent of veterans live in rural areas. This bill invests \$440 million to improve access to care for these veterans, who often have to travel long distances to receive care.

Madam Chair, this bill takes care of those who are keeping America safe. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 3082, to fulfill our continued obligations to our nation's military.

## RECOGNIZING DR. KAP JOON NO

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 2009*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Kap Joon No. Dr. No, a first generation Korean, is a medical doctor at Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago and is a well-known and well-respected member of the Korean-American community.

Dr. No served as the past president of the Arirang Lions Club, to which he is still an active member. The Arirang Lions Club has held an annual picnic for Korean adoptees and their families for over 30 years and have with in recent years started organizing trips for adoptees to visit Korea through a partnership with their sister club in Seoul.

Dr. No has been also been instrumental in coordinating a free health clinic annually,